



October 9, 2007

Dear Friend of the Toronto Public Library:

As you know, the Toronto Public Library Board recently held a series of public meetings to inform the public about our budget situation and to give people an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts and opinions.

We told people about the difficult decisions the Board faces regarding potential service reductions in 2008 affecting open hours, services and collections. We listened to thoughtful questions and feedback that the Library Board will take into careful consideration as we plan for our 2008 budget.

As you heard if you were able to join us for a meeting, there are only two areas that the Library Board can cut from to get the significant reductions that may be required: branch open hours and library materials (that is, the books, CDs, reference materials, etc. that make up our collections). Cuts in both of these areas would negatively impact services and, as we heard, would ultimately hurt the people we serve. Here is just a little of what we've heard from those who attended the meetings and/or have filled out our survey and comment forms:

- "Education is power. The Toronto Public Library is rich with information from which we all learn. Without it, crime, poverty, and unemployment will rise."
- "Toronto Public Library is one of the very few places in the City where teens are invited to do creative and useful things, free of charge!"
- "I am always impressed by the diversity I see in the larger branch I drop into from time to time. People are there – reading, alone and in families, connecting with others and with words, books, ideas, questions, answers, in many languages and cultures. We need our libraries and the Toronto system provides a remarkably rich and open invitation to everybody. We will be impoverished as a community if there are further reductions to this remarkable hub of life and awareness in our city."
- "Just leave TPL alone. Messing with TPL is definitely going to cripple the communities' knowledge of information. Please leave it alone."

If you haven't done so already, **I urge you to let your City Councillor know that you want them to keep your libraries open and keep your collections up-to-date.** This is one of the most powerful ways to make your views known, and your input can help us protect these valuable services. A list of City Councillors and library branches in their wards is enclosed.

Library Board

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Vice-Chair

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Eman Ahmed

Councillor Paul Ainslie

Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler

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Okeima Lawrence

Councillor Chin Lee

Councillor Anthony Perruzza

Councillor Adam Vaughan

Kate Wilson

Chief Executive Officer

Josephine Bryant

I'd also like to invite you to join us at our upcoming Board meetings on October 15, November 12 and December 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, and to visit www.torontopubliclibrary.ca for updates. Please take a moment to fill out a comment form about this issue on the Library's website.

Thank you in advance for taking an active role to help protect the important services that Toronto Public Library offers to our city's residents. The key to a great city and great library system is engaged citizens, and we appreciate your interest and commitment.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Gallagher Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Gallagher Ross
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board

Enclosure